

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 05225 282234Z

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: PEACE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES
OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REF: SANTIAGO 5190

1. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE PUBLISHED STATEMENT DATED JULY 25 ON RECENT LISTS OF DEAD AND DISAPPEARED EXTREMISTS (REFTEL), IN FORM OF PAID AD IN JULY 28 "EL MERCURIO". STATEMENT URGES CHILEANS TO "PONDER THE EXTREME GRAVITY" OF SENSATIONALIST PRESS ARTICLES, ORIGINATING FROM "LITTLE KNOWN SOURCES", CONCERNING PRESUMPTIVE DEATH OF LARGE NUMBER OF CHILEANS. FURTHER, "FRIVOLITY" WITH WHICH SANTIAGO PRESS IS TREATING THESE REPORTS (E.G. SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" HEADLINED ONE REPORT "MIRISTAS ARE BEING EXTERMINATED LIKE RATS") FURTHER CONTRIBUTES TO SUFFERING OF AFFECTED FAMILIES, AND DENIES ELEMENTAL HUMAN DIGNITY TO WHICH ALL PERSONS ARE ENTITLED. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THAT "PRACTICALLY ALL" PERSONS ON THE LISTS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTS OF HABEAS CORPUS (AMPARO) REQUESTS IN CHILEAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, SPONSORED BY FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE TESTIFIED TO ARREST AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THESE PERSONS IN CHILE.

2. WHAT IS NEEDED, STATEMENT CONTINUES, IS FULL AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION BY COMPETENT CHILEAN AND FOREIGN AUTHORITIES.

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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 05225 282234Z

INVESTIGATION SHOULD INCLUDE CONFIRMATION OF DEATH, CAUSE OF

DEATH, AND IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES. "UNTIL THIS OCCURS, ANY STORIES ON THIS SUBJECT CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE AND MAKE MORE DESPERATE -- AND WITH NO BENEFIT TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE PRESTIGE OF OUR COUNTRY -- THE GENUINE SORROW AND SUFFERING OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS."

3. STATEMENT CONCLUDES WITH SLAP AT "PRESS CAMPAIGNS" DESIGNED TO SLANDER THOSE LAWYERS WHO HAVE HANDLED AMPARO REQUESTS AND THOSE ORGANIZATIONS (E.E. THE COMMITTEE) WHICH HAVE AIDED FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS. STATEMENT ALSO DEFENDS COMMITTEE'S ECONOMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS.

4. COMMENT: COMMITTEE LEADERS HAD TOLD US (PARA 3, REFTEL) SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED. IT IS POLITE, BUT NO ONE WILL MISS ITS SKEPTICISM AT PUBLISHED EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISAPPEARED PERSONS.
POPPER

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